

## Reagan: U.S. not seeking war

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan said Sunday's American air raid on Syrian positions in Lebanon did not signal a U.S. desire for a confrontation with Syria but the United States would continue to retaliate if its forces were attacked. "We don't seek hostilities there. Our mission remains what it was — to help stabilise the situation in Beirut until all the foreign forces can be withdrawn and until the government of Lebanon can take over the authority of its own territory," Mr. Reagan said in a statement. "But we are going to defend our forces there," he added in the statement issued on his return from a weekend at the presidential retreat at Camp David, Maryland. The Pentagon said two U.S. planes were shot down but the pilot of one bailed out safely and was returned to his ship. Mr. Reagan said there was no solid information about the fate of the two crew members of the second plane but they apparently bailed out behind Syrian lines and the United States was attempting to negotiate their release.

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## Three wounded in Sidon ambush

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — An Israeli soldier and two Lebanese civilians were wounded Sunday when a group of armed men hurled hand grenades at an Israeli military convoy on the coastal road south of here, local security sources said. The sources said grenades were thrown as three Israeli trucks and a jeep were passing the A'aqbiyah crossroads about 10 kilometres from Sidon. Israeli soldiers returned fire with automatic weapons, but the gunmen escaped.

## Egypt urges Israeli pullout

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Sunday called for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon but made no mention of U.S. bombing raids against Syrian army positions in central Lebanon earlier Sunday. Speaking at a banquet in honour of Niger's President Seyni Kountché, Mr. Mubarak said: "Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon is necessary to enable the legitimate Lebanese government to exercise its authority far from any outside influences."

## Luce, Khaddam hold talks

DAMASCUS (R) — British Minister of State in the Foreign Office Richard Luce and Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam held talks Sunday on the Lebanese crisis and the Middle East situation, the official Syrian news agency said. It added the two officials also reviewed bilateral relations, but gave no further details. Mr. Luce, who arrived in Damascus Saturday, visited other countries in the region last month.

## 3 sentenced to death in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (R) — A Pakistani military court has sentenced to death three alleged members of an anti-government guerrilla group, official sources said Sunday. They said the court, which announced the sentence Saturday in Lahore, capital of Punjab province, found the three men guilty of killing a police constable when he was trying to arrest them in December last year.

## 43 nations to attend Namedia

NEW DELHI (R) — Delegates from 43 non-aligned countries will take part in a conference on the media starting in New Delhi on Dec. 9, the Press Trust of India said Sunday. It quoted Nikhil Chakravarty, one of the organisers of the four-day meeting named NAMEDIA, as saying the conference would discuss ways to achieve self-reliance in fields related to information gathering and communications.

## Iraq, Mitsubishi sign \$50m contract

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries of Japan signed three contracts Sunday worth some \$50 million, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

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# Syrians shoot down 2 U.S. jets

BEIRUT (R) — Waves of U.S. navy planes from carriers in the Eastern Mediterranean Sunday attacked Syrian army positions in the central mountains of Lebanon and two bombers were shot down by Syrian air defences.

Eyewitnesses said one airman was killed when he parachuted from his stricken aircraft and a second taken prisoner by the Syrian army. A third bailed out safely into the sea.

This was the first air raid by the United States against targets in Lebanon since American Marines landed here in September last year as part of a four-nation peace force.

Twenty-eight bombers from the aircraft carriers John F. Kennedy and Independence struck at Syrian anti-aircraft bases in the mountains east of the capital at 8 a.m. (0600 GMT), the Defence Department said.

In Damascus, a Syrian military spokesman said Syrian air defences knocked out three U.S. planes.

But the United States admitted the loss of only two — a single-seat A-7 "Corsair" which crashed into a coastal town north of Beirut and a two-crew A-6 "Intruder" downed near the mountain village of Kfar Salwan.

Western diplomats said they believed the two aircraft to be the first U.S. fighter-bombers lost in combat since the Vietnam war ended in 1975.

## 'Raids are part of joint U.S.-Israel campaign'

TEL AVIV (R) — U.S. and Israeli air raids on Syrian-held positions in Lebanon this weekend are part of a joint campaign to fight Syria's presence in Lebanon, a senior Israeli official said Sunday.

After a long cabinet meeting, government secretary Dan Meridor denied however that Sunday's attack by U.S. navy bombers and Saturday's Israeli raid were coordinated.

The senior official, who asked not be named, told reporters Israel and the United States agreed on the need to build a powerful central government in Lebanon and that Syria and Palestinian guerrillas were the main obstacles to that goal.

The air attacks came within 48 hours of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's return from Washington, where he held talks on strategic cooperation with the United States in the Middle East.

U.S. officials have said the new close ties with Israel contain a message to Damascus and Moscow.

## Mubarak: U.S.-Israeli accord would be disaster

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Sunday that if details of a new U.S.-Israeli strategic co-operation pact were correct, it would be disastrous for the Middle East peace process.

He told reporters after three-and-a-half hours of talks with President Seyni Kountché of Niger: "If true, this kind of strategic co-operation would be disastrous to the Middle East peace process."

"It will undermine the peace process and put America's friends in a difficult position. I hope it is not correct."

Asked whether such an agreement would encourage further Israeli military operations in the region, he said: "Of course."

The pact announced in Washington last week by President Ronald Reagan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir includes the creation of a joint group to work out, among other things, combined planning, joint exercises and the stockpiling of U.S. equipment in Israel.

Mr. Mubarak declined to answer questions on Sunday's American attack on Syrian anti-aircraft positions in the central Lebanese

The Corsair's pilot bailed out into the sea and was picked up by the Lebanese army. Lebanese military sources said he was bruised and had a hand wound. He was returned to the ships of the Sixth Fleet off the coast.

Eyewitnesses in Kfar Salwan, 25 kilometres east of Beirut, said one of the Intruder's two-man crew died from injuries received when he parachuted to earth.

The second broke his leg and was captured. He was taken away by Syrian troops for treatment, the eyewitnesses said.

A defence Department statement listed both men as missing, and a U.S. Marine spokesman in Beirut said he had no comment on the eyewitness reports.

## 2 dead, 8 injured

The Syrian military spokesman said only that one pilot was captured during the bombing raids on six Syrian-held areas along the Beirut-Damascus highway and the Metn mountains to the north.

Syrian casualties were two dead and eight injured with the loss of a vehicle and an ammunition store, he said.

## Druze to lift siege of Deir Al Qamar

BEIRUT (R) — The Druze militia Sunday announced the lifting of a three-month-old siege of a Christian enclave in the Shouf mountains so that 20,000 Christians could spend Christmas with their families and friends.

Lebanese Christian leaders welcomed the move but asked: "Where are they to go?"

Lifting of the siege of the town of Deir Al Qamar, surrounded since the height of last summer's mountain war, was announced at a news conference by a spokesman for Druze leader Walid Junblat.

Fuad Salman, secretary-general of the mainly-Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), said the decision, taken for humanitarian reasons, would allow the besieged Christians to meet their families for Christmas and New Year's.

But Christians elsewhere in Lebanon said most of the people of Deir Al Qamar, its population swollen by thousands of refugees from nearby Christian villages overrun by the Druze, would find it impossible to return to their homes.

Former Lebanese President Camille Chamoun, a Maronite Christian and native of Deir Al

## Twenty-eight American planes attack central Lebanese mountain positions

The downed Corsair crashed into the front garden of a two-storey house in the town of Zouk M'kayel 15 kilometres north of Beirut.

Six to eight people were injured, army officers on the scene said.

Eyewitnesses said the plane, trailing smoke, came in from the north and the pilot, Commander Edward Andrews, 41, splashed down in the sea with a red parachute.

A militia official in the mountains said the planes stayed in the area for about 45 minutes.

Yasser Haidar, an official of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), the main Druze fighting force in the area, said the planes bombed in groups of four or five.

He said there was a hail of anti-aircraft fire and a few missiles were fired at them.

"They left the area and circled over Beirut for 10 minutes before returning again for another 10 minutes," he told Reuters by telephone from the Druze town of Alek, east of Beirut.

"They seemed to be looking to find out what happened to the two planes they lost."

## Marines on alert

The U.S. Marine spokesman in Beirut. Major Dennis Brooks.

said only Corsairs and Intruders were involved in the raid. Both aircraft are relatively slow ground attack aircraft designed to carry a heavy load of bombs.

Maj. Brooks said the 1,500-strong U.S. Marine contingent in the multinational force in Beirut had gone on alert following the raid.

In Washington, the Defence Department said the strikes were in response to Syrian fire against U.S. reconnaissance missions over Lebanon Saturday. It said the Syrians opened up with anti-aircraft guns and at least 10 surface-to-air missiles on two F-14 fighters.

"This attack on U.S. reconnaissance aircraft represents a serious and deliberate threat to the multinational peacekeeping mission," the Pentagon said.

In Paris, U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger promised more attacks if Syria continued to fire on U.S. reconnaissance missions over the area.

Mr. Weinberger, in Paris for talks with officials before attending a NATO meeting this week in Brussels, called the U.S. air strike defensive in nature.

Asked if Sunday's raid was in retaliation for a suicide bomb attack in October on U.S. Marine headquarters in Beirut, Mr. Wei-

nberger said: "This is a defensive measure to protect the necessary reconnaissance that has to be conducted virtually every day in this kind of situation, and is not a reprisal."

Asked if there might be more raids, he replied: "I hope there will not be any more reconnaissance planes fired upon, but the rationale for this attack this morning would hold in the event that American planes doing defensive reconnaissance were fired on again."

In Damascus, Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam called for international and Arab action against what he called America's aggressive policy in Lebanon and the Middle East.

Mr. Khaddam's appeal was made in messages to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi, Organisation of Islamic Conference Secretary-General Habib Chatti, and Indian Foreign Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, as chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement.

"I am sending these messages... and urging you to undertake necessary measures to stop the aggressive policy of the United States in Lebanon and the Middle East."

## Hussein chats with Columbia astronaut

HOUSTON (R) — Astronaut Owen Garriott, 216 kilometres above the Middle East in the space shuttle Columbia, took time Sunday to chat to King Hussein, like him an amateur radio enthusiast.

"I just passed over the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba," said Mr. Garriott using his radio during spare time between his 12-hour shifts on the space shuttle.

"I'm looking down at your country right at this time, Sir," the astronaut said.

"I, Sir, am very, very happy to hear you loud and clear... in Amman," replied King Hussein.

King Hussein and Mr. Garriott are two of more than 1.5 million radio amateurs in the world licensed to conduct two-way short wave radio communication.

After Mr. Garriott told King Hussein that Amman was a "fantastic view" from the space shuttle, the King replied: "Thank you very, very much indeed for this very exciting report about Jordan and what you can see from up there."

"We're very, very proud, very happy indeed to send you and your colleagues — from all my countrymen and myself — all our very, very best for a most successful mission," the King said.

Space shuttle flight extended by one day, page 8

## Civilians reported killed in inter-Lebanese shelling

BEIRUT (R) — An unknown number of civilians were killed or wounded Sunday during battles between Druze and predominantly Christian rightist militias over a broad area of coast and mountain south of Beirut, residents and radio stations reported.

Heavy exchanges of mortar, rocket and artillery fire raged throughout the day around villages in the Kharroub region 20 to 30 kilometres from Beirut.

The death and injury toll was not known, but both state-controlled television and the Falangist "Voice of Lebanon" radio spoke of civilian casualties.

The unusually heavy bombardments came on the day the Druze militia announced it was lifting a three-month-old siege of the Shouf mountain town of Deir Al Qamar so that Christians could spend Christmas and the New Year with relatives.

The rightist militia, known as the "Lebanese Forces," warned civilians to keep away from Druze military positions.

"Our shelling is not directed at them (civilians)," it said in a statement, "but at the aliens who occupy the province and attack its peaceful villages and use them as a base for their attacks without any inhibition."

It named 10 villages in the Kharroub region which it said had come under continuous mortar and rocket attack for several hours. Civilians were killed and wounded and a number of houses destroyed, it said.

Because of this the rightist forces struck back, the statement said.

In the Shouf mountains above Beirut the Lebanese army and Druze militiamen exchanged artillery and rocket fire throughout much of the day, state-run Beirut Radio said.

Because of the continuing breakdown in what the Lebanese call "the security situation," Beirut airport remained closed for the fifth day. Schools have been shut for more than a week in east Beirut and elsewhere.

## Andropov recovering from illness, Soviets tell Bonn

BONN (R) — The Soviet Union has told West Germany that Kremlin leader Yuri Andropov is recovering from illness, in what diplomats see as a move to ease recent uncertainties over his position.

The Bonn government Sunday confirmed a newspaper report quoting chief spokesman Peter Boenisch as saying Mr. Andropov's health had improved.

"The Soviets have told me that Andropov will probably resume his duties on Dec. 10," Mr. Bo-

enisch said. Mr. Andropov, 69, has not been seen in public since August. Moscow has said only that he had a cold.

The announcement came at a time of tension between Bonn and Moscow over the recent arrival of new U.S. Pershing-2 nuclear arms in West Germany. The missiles, to be aimed at the Soviet Union, are seen by the Kremlin as part of a first-strike force.

## Gemayel leaves Paris after stopover

PARIS (R) — Lebanese President Amin Gemayel left France Sunday after a brief stopover in Paris on his way back from the United States. Lebanese embassy sources said. The president's arrival was unexpected and French officials said they knew nothing about his visit. The Lebanese embassy sources said Mr. Gemayel's travel arrangements were usually secret. Airport sources said he was met by U.S. officials at Roissy airport north of Paris when he flew in from New York on a scheduled commercial airliner. Mr. Gemayel had been in the U.S. for talks with President Reagan and senior administration officials on the removal of non-Lebanese forces from his country.

## King, Turkish leader review mutual issues

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein and Turkish President Kenan Evren held talks at the Army Headquarters in Amman Sunday on a number of issues of mutual concern to Jordan and Turkey.

Both leaders later heard a briefing on the Jordanian Armed Forces and their responsibilities and duties. King Hussein also accompanied President Evren to the Muwaffaq Salti Air Base and were briefed on the duties of its personnel. They toured the base and watched take-off exercises by fighter planes.

Later, they visited the Fifth Royal Armoured Division and inspected a military exhibition displaying various types of weapons including the Tareq Ibn Ziyad tank which was modified in Jordan. The tour included a visit to the division's field hospital and front-line positions of the 12th Royal Mechanised Division whose commander presented a briefing on the troops' duties and responsibilities.

The two leaders were accompanied by Court Minister Amer Khammash, Armed Forces

Commander-in-Chief Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and other officials as well as an official Turkish delegation accompanying President Evren.

## Co-operation agreement signed

Jordan and Turkey signed an agreement Sunday on economic, industrial and technical co-operation. The agreement is designed to boost bilateral co-operation in joint projects, construction work and also provides for co-operation in trade, banking operations, tourism, transport, public works, building of fishing boats and transport as well as the exchange of expertise and technicians' visits.

The agreement was signed for Jordan by Minister of Industry and Trade Walid Asfour and for Turkey by Foreign Minister Tiler Furkmen.

Both sides agreed that a joint Jordanian-Turkish committee, set up under the provisions of an agreement signed in 1981, will follow up the implementation of the new agreement.

## Badran holds discussions with Hungarian minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran discussed in his office Sunday with Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Varkonyi ways of bolstering co-operation between Hungary and Jordan.

Earlier, the Hungarian minister met with Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Hassan Ibrahim who presented a briefing on the general conditions of Arab inhabitants under Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and spoke about Is-

rael's arbitrary practices in the occupied lands, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

The Hungarian minister reiterated his country's support for the rights of the Palestinian people and their rights in their homeland, Petra said.

Later on Sunday, Mr. Varkonyi left Amman and was seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem and senior officials.

## Arafat wants to move headquarters to Cairo

CAIRO (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was quoted Sunday as saying he would like to move his headquarters to Egypt.

Mr. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said in an interview with the weekly political review Rose Al Youssef: "I wish I could move my headquarters to Cairo."

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak told reporters Saturday Mr. Arafat was welcome to come to Cairo, but government officials here doubted that this implied the setting up of a PLO headquarters in the Egyptian capital. "We welcome Arafat in Cairo. We have no objection against him visiting us," Mr. Mubarak said.

Mr. Arafat is under siege in the north Lebanese port of Tripoli by Syrian-backed Palestinian rebels. Egypt, which signed a separate peace treaty with Israel in 1979, has repeatedly said it was only prepared to host Palestinian fighters as part of an overall settlement of the Middle East conflict.

The PLO and most Arab countries severed relations with Egypt after 1979, but Mr. Arafat told the weekly magazine that he had been in close contact with Mr. Mubarak recently.

"We have both agreed that the current conspiracy against the Palestinian revolution is detrimental not only to the Palestinian people but the entire (Middle East) region," Mr. Arafat said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Arafat and 4,000 loyal guerrillas, trapped in Tripoli by Syrian-backed rebels,

appeared closer to leaving Saturday night after the United Nations Security Council agreed to let them depart under the symbolic protection of the U.N. flag.

The U.N. flag was one of the guarantees the PLO chairman had requested as a condition for withdrawing his forces from the north Lebanese port.

U.N. delegates said the loyalists were expected to sail to Tunisia and North Yemen in vessels provided by Saudi Arabia.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said he understood there would be about five ships to transport up to 4,000 men carrying personal weapons only. In another sign of movement toward resolution of the month-old war between rival Palestinian forces, Arafat aides said they were drawing up lists of those who would leave.

They said they were pleased the 15-nation Security Council had agreed but it did not mean a departure was imminent.

There were at least two obstacles to early withdrawal and they were still waiting for clarification from Lebanese negotiators mediating between Arafat supporters and the rebels, they added.

Mr. Arafat's aides said they sought clarification of plans for some 1,000 fighters without links to any Arab country other than Lebanon and who would be left in control of two rebel-held refugee camps just north of the city.

Mr. Arafat said Saturday the Syrians were massing forces around Tripoli and appeared intent on continuing to attack.

Sporadic mortar and small arms fire erupted over the city but subsided Saturday evening.

for Moscow to disclose news of its leader's health unless this affected an official visit. West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl was told just before his Moscow visit in July that Mr. Andropov would miss their first day of scheduled meetings because of illness.

Mr. Kohl said last week he had received a letter from Mr. Andropov indicating Moscow was ready to review its decision last month to break off its Geneva talks with the U.S. on limiting

medium-range nuclear missiles. The Dutch government gained a similar impression from a letter it received.

But the Soviet Communist Party daily Pravda said the interpretation was a "shameless deception."

Moscow has indicated it will not return to the two-year-old Geneva talks until new U.S. medium-range missiles that have arrived in Europe are withdrawn.



## MIDDLE EAST

## Officials meet ahead of Islamic foreign ministers' conference

**DHAKA (R)** — Official delegations from across the Muslim world started talks here Sunday ahead of a five-day conference of Islamic foreign ministers opening on Tuesday.

The officials of the 42-member of the Organisation of Islamic Conference will prepare the agenda for the meeting, which precedes an Islamic summit to be held in Morocco next month.

Restoring unity within the ranks of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is expected to be a top item, while the conference will also probably discuss the three-year-old Gulf war and the Cyprus issue.

Members are divided on their approach to the Nov. 15 declaration of independence by the northern half of Cyprus. Some would like the conference to recognise the self-proclaimed republic in the Turkish part of the divided island, but others told

Reuters they wanted to stay out of the controversy. All will unite in calling for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon and in condemning the U.S. strategic cooperation agreement announced in Washington during a visit by Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir.

OIC Secretary-General Habib Chatti, who is due to arrive here Monday, has criticised the accord as constituting a major threat to the Arab and Islamic nations.

Conference organisers are underlining the economic issues to be discussed, including trade expansion among Muslim countries, agricultural development in the Islamic world and assistance to fel-

low members by the richer states. OIC members include some of the world's poorest nations, such as hosts Bangladesh and Sudan, Africa's largest state.

For Bangladesh the conference is important as the first such international gathering Dhaka has hosted since the country of some 95 million people won independence from Pakistan in 1971.

Security for the conference is tight following anti-government riots in Dhaka and the country's main port of Chittagong several days ago.

Troops and police have sealed off the conference venue and two of the capital's luxury hotels where the delegations are staying, but a curfew imposed after the trouble has now been relaxed to just five hours during the night.

The government-owned Bangladesh Observer in an editorial welcomed the Islamic delegates and called on the foreign ministers

to consider ways of forging greater unity among Muslim countries. Bangladesh's military ruler Lt. Gen. Hossain Mohammad Ershad, who took power in a bloodless coup in March last year, will open the conference on Tuesday.

Bangladesh, which is classified as one of the world's least developed nations with an average per capita income of just \$120 a year, has spent around \$10 million on preparing for the gathering, renovating buildings, widening roads and sprucing up streets.

It is being held in Dhaka's new parliament building — an expansive and elegant structure of red brick, concrete and white marble set next to an artificial lake.

Roads to the complex are decorated with flags and colourful ceremonial arches, while organisers have erected hoardings along the route carrying quotations from the Koran.

## Dentkash's envoy arrives in Dhaka to seek support for new state

**DHAKA (R)** — The foreign minister of the self-proclaimed republic of northern Cyprus arrived here Sunday ahead of a five-day meeting of Muslim nations to seek Islamic support for the new state, so far recognised only by Turkey.

A government spokesman said Kemal Atakol was met at Dhaka Airport by Bangladeshi Foreign Minister A.R. Shams-Ud-Doha.

The spokesman said he was not sure whether Mr. Atakol would be allowed to address the meeting of Islamic foreign ministers, which starts on Tuesday.

Senior officials of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) which groups 40 states plus the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), were meeting to work out the agenda for the ministerial talks.

Speaking to newsmen on arrival, Mr. Atakol said: "We came here to explain the reasons of our declaring independence. We came here to get the support of Muslim countries."

"The Turkish Cypriots need the support of Muslim countries and we want to tell our Muslim brothers that we seek peace and want peace."

The northern half of the divided Mediterranean island issued its unilateral declaration of independence in mid-November. Most countries have condemned the move and only Turkey has recognised the new entity.

It was not immediately clear on what basis Mr. Atakol had arrived in Dhaka and whether he was a guest of the Bangladeshi government. But the Bangladeshi

government spokesman said the Turkish Cypriot community had sent observers to previous Islamic meetings.

Mr. Atakol was quoted by the Bangladeshi news agency BSS as saying: "We are ready to extend our peaceful hands to negotiate on equal terms (with the Greek Cypriots) to set up a bi-communal and bi-zonal federal republic."

"Now everything depends on the sincerity of the other parties involved."

A top item on the agenda for the foreign ministers is expected to be finding a way to help restore unity within the PLO. The conference will also probably discuss the situation in Cyprus and ways of ending the three-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

## Bourguiba's wife visits newly freed Palestinians

**TUNIS (R)** — Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba's wife went to Algiers to visit Palestinians recently freed by Israel in a swap of prisoners, the Tunisian news agency said.

Wassila Bourguiba, who plays a major role in Tunisian politics and is a strong supporter of the Palestinian cause, was influential in Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat choosing Tunis as his headquarters after being evacuated from Beirut.

Mrs. Bourguiba said at the airport her visit was in line with Tunisia's strong support for the Palestinian cause and its only legitimate representative, the PLO.

Mrs. Bourguiba, accompanied by Defence Minister Salaheddine Bialy, said she would also have contacts with Algerian officials.

Relations between Algeria and Tunisia have grown very close recently and Algerian Prime Minister Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani signed agreements for three new joint economic ventures during a visit to Tunis last week.

## Reagan plan cancelled out, Iraq says

**BAGHDAD (R)** — Iraq said Sunday the latest U.S.-Israeli rapprochement cancelled out President Reagan's 1982 Middle East peace plan and blocked the road towards U.S. involvement in peace efforts.

Commenting on the new U.S.-Israeli cooperation, the official daily Al-Thawra said it showed that American bias against the Arab nations was increasing.

"America has now become an overt enemy of the Arab Nation and not a mere ally of our Zionist enemy," the paper said.

"The accord between Reagan and (Israeli Prime Minister) Shamir has completely blocked the road leading to any possibility of resorting to the U.S. for achieving a just solution (in the Middle East)," it said.

"This means the U.S. has become a direct and overt partner of the Zionist entity in any future aggression on the Arab Nation," it added.

## Bomb explodes harmlessly in S. Lebanon

**SIDON, Lebanon (R)** — Guerrillas planted a bomb on the main coastal highway in Israeli-held South Lebanon Saturday night but it exploded without causing casualties, Israeli military officials said.

Five such bombs have now exploded in eight days. One slightly wounded an Israeli soldier.

## U.N. troops in Cyprus maintain impartiality amidst new tension

By Michael Sheridan

**NICOSIA (R)** — Lieutenant Leif Andersson, a policeman in his native Stockholm, peered through binoculars at the Turkish soldiers a few hundred metres from his United Nations post and murmured: "All quiet — very quiet."

Lt. Andersson, a reservist platoon commander of Swedish troops serving with the seven-nation U.N. Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), was touring his men's positions along the line between Turkish and Greek-Cypriot troops on the divided island. It is a routine day, but the quiet efficiency of the U.N. operation could be thrown out of gear on Dec. 15.

That's when its mandate comes up for renewal and Turkish-Cypriot community leader Rauf Denkash has called for "a review" of its role.

Mr. Denkash, self-proclaimed president of the internationally condemned "Turkish republic of north Cyprus", says the countries whose men are in the force — Sweden, Britain, Canada, Austria, Ireland, Denmark and Finland — should not take sides in the island dispute.

Mr. Denkash proclaimed the Turkish northern sector of Cyprus an independent republic last Nov. 15 in defiance of U.N. resolutions. It is recognised only by Turkey.

All the countries contributing to the force have either publicly branded the move illegal or made their disapproval known through diplomatic means.

Lt. Andersson and his men along the thin line between Mr. Denkash's "state" and the Greek-Cypriot sector remain studiously impartial.

Their job is to record military

activity on both sides, police the strip of land and try to prevent or defuse any incident which could trigger a conflict.

On a lonely blue-painted watchtower in the middle of no-man's-land, privates Tommy Bing and Magnus Hagberg scan the rolling countryside stretching to the jagged Kyrenia mountain range in the north.

On one side, a dun-coloured earth line marks the Turkish trenches, on the other Greek-Cypriot soldiers can be seen looting at their sentry positions. Right in the middle, a Greek-Cypriot shepherd unconcernedly watches his flock grazing just on the Greek-Cypriot side of the dirt track that marks the half-way point between the two.

Occasionally, the Swedes hear the rumble of artillery like distant thunder as one or other side stages gunnery practice or the rattle of machine-gun fire in exercise ranges.

Each such incident, every plane spotted in the sky, every troop movement by either side is scrupulously recorded and transmitted to U.N. headquarters in downtown Nicosia.

It is a system that has worked well since the shooting stopped after the 1974 Turkish invasion and the U.N. troops moved in along the ceasefire line.

There are now 2,350 of them, some 700 of them permanently on the Turkish side. All move freely along the line between Turkish and Greek-Cypriot positions.

But since Mr. Denkash's unilateral declaration of independence, passions have been roused on both sides. Britain, Turkey and Greece are the three guarantor powers of the island under a 1960 agreement but Ath-

ens has said it will not sit at the same table with Turkey to talk about the new move.

So, just as the U.N. role has become more critical, Mr. Denkash has cast doubt on its future. Typically of the drawn-out quarrel, this is a complex position.

Last Nov. 26, Mr. Denkash said: "We are not asking the U.N. to leave our territories immediately."

"But we are seriously considering the taking of sides by the countries which contribute to UNFICYP. We want them to stay impartial in the Cyprus dispute."

Mr. Denkash said that since the U.N. recognised only the Greek-Cypriot administration as the government of Cyprus, its men were therefore only "guests" in the Turkish-occupied sector.

"We will continue to consider them as guests provided certain points are cleared up. Otherwise they cannot be deployed and they cannot serve in our area," he said.

So far, the Turkish-Cypriot leader has not publicly spelt out exactly what he wants but he has effectively served notice that the peacekeepers have become part of the political issue.

Diplomats here read Mr. Denkash's statement as an annoyed response to the successful Cyprus government diplomatic drive for international support after the north's independence move. They say it is still unclear how his announcement will affect the mandate renewal.

The United Nations usually takes account of the views of both sides in peace-keeping operations. As Dec. 15 draws near, nerves in Nicosia are getting edgy, but the peacekeepers are going methodically about their task as usual and few believe they will leave.

## Security tight in Bangladesh

**CHITTAGONG, Bangladesh (R)** — Security measures were visibly tightened in Bangladesh's main port city of Chittagong as delegations from across the Islamic world gathered in the capital of Dhaka.

Police and troop patrols increased, and security forces sandbagged the port and key entrances to Chittagong.

Police barricaded several areas, and paramilitary units took up positions on rooftops.

Although no reason was given for the steps, the government wants to avoid trouble during the conference, the first major international meeting Bangladesh has hosted since gaining independence in 1971.

Both Dhaka and Chittagong were placed under curfew several days ago after anti-government clashes in which at least six people died and 500 were injured.

Police said they arrested over 600 people during the violence. They detained various prominent opposition figures who are campaigning for parliamentary elections and a quick end to martial law.

Among them were the widow of assassinated President Ziaur Rahman, Begum Khalida Zia, who heads the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, and the daughter of late President Mujibur Rahman, Sheikh Hasina Wazed, who leads the Awami League.

A 15-party alliance headed by Sheikh Hasina called for a general strike on Dec. 20 in Dhaka to protest against action by security forces in Chittagong in which two people were killed last Wednesday.

## Zimbabwe backs PLO

**HARARE (R)** — Zimbabwe Foreign Minister Witness Mangwende has criticised unnamed powers for fomenting discord in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"We are aware that some powers, which are opposed to the liberation of Palestine for their own self-interests, are directly sowing seeds of discontent within the PLO ranks," he told a PLO solidarity meeting in Harare.

Mr. Mangwende, pledging Zimbabwean support for Palestinians, appealed to them to unite under PLO chairman Yasser Arafat.

## Gemayel accepts results of his talks in U.S.

**WASHINGTON (R)** — Lebanese President Amin Gemayel said that progress was made towards restoring Lebanon's sovereignty during his three days of talks with President Reagan and other U.S. officials.

Mr. Gemayel, in a statement made just before he left Washington to return to Beirut, said the major topic of the talks was how to secure the removal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon.

"We have in this visit reviewed the mechanisms and the conditions that will lead to the lib-

eration of Lebanon and to the restoration of its sovereignty over all its territory within its internationally recognised boundaries," he said.

He said the Lebanese people were determined to continue "the process of dialogue, reconciliation and reforms which took positive shape in Geneva."

Mr. Gemayel said the United States fully supported his goals.

Secretary of State George Shultz was present as Mr. Gemayel made his statement, but had no comments.

## Egypt likely to lose trade war spoils

By Hamza Hendawi

**CAIRO** — Egypt, which has fed its 46 million people for most of 1983 on cheap American wheat flour, now faces the prospect of higher bills for huge wheat and flour imports.

The Egyptian government, which subsidises bread so much that a loaf is literally cheaper than chicken feed, imports more than half its food requirements.

Wheat and flour purchases run at 4.2 and 1.3 million tonnes a year and it is the world's number one importer of wheat flour.

Earlier this year, the country became a battleground for trade rivalries between the United States and the European Community over subsidised food exports.

The U.S. pushed the Europeans out of the Egyptian market by offering to export one million tonnes of flour at a price believed in the market to have been set as much as \$30 a tonne below world prices.

But the last shipment of subsidised American flour arrived late in September, according to Western diplomats. They add there is little chance of further bargain deals from Washington next year.

After recent record harvests, the U.S. Department of Agr-

iculture (USDA) reported the American crop fell this year by more than 10 million tonnes to 65.5 million tonnes because of the worst heatwave in 30 years and government efforts to curb excessive production.

USDA officials have said that government-owned stocks are now too low to sustain further subsidised deals.

However, the European Community increased its export subsidy on wheat flour last month in an attempt to win back part of the Egyptian market. Community sources here say the subsidy was increased by nearly 10 per cent.

Egypt's minister of supply and internal trade, Nagi Shatta, told Reuters that Egypt was nearing agreement on the import of about 400,000 tonnes of flour from West European producers, mainly France.

He added that the government had lined up 85 per cent of the 4.2 million tonnes of wheat it will need next year.

Two million tonnes will come from Australia in a deal estimated by industry sources as worth some \$318 million.

Mr. Shatta said his country was expected to conclude a deal with the U.S. for the purchase of 1.2 million tonnes of wheat to be bou-

ght under special arrangements and Washington's food surplus programme. Another 500,000 tonnes would come from France.

Egypt would shop for the rest in the U.S. and Canadian markets or through international tenders, he said.

While acknowledging food imports were a burden on Egypt, Mr. Shatta also complained that a record amount of food was lost after arrival because of inadequate storage facilities.

He declined to say how much rotted or was eaten by rats, but said the government planned to build a series of 100,000-tonne silos in various ports and population centres.

Another burden on the treasury is the cost of subsidising bread. Mr. Shatta estimated that waste and over-consumption caused by low bread prices cost over \$1 billion a year.

The late President Anwar Sadat tried to tackle the problem by increasing bread prices in 1977, but provoked widespread rioting.

A loaf still costs one piastre (about 1.2 U.S. cents) and President Hosni Mubarak recently complained that farmers were feeding bread to chickens because it was cheaper than proper chicken feed.

TV & RADIO

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## HOME NEWS

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Government offices to close Dec. 17

AMMAN — All government departments and public institutions will close Saturday Dec. 17 on the anniversary of the birthday of the Prophet Mohammad, according to a communiqué issued by the Prime Ministry Sunday. It said that all government departments should hold religious ceremonies to mark the occasion.

## Odeh, Lawzi to attend agri fund

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) board of governors meeting scheduled to be held in Rome from December 5 to 9. Jordan will be represented at the meeting by National Planning Council (NPC) President Hanna Odeh, who is a governor of the fund, and Ministry of Agriculture Under-Secretary Salem Al Lawzi in his capacity as a deputy governor. The Jordanian delegation is due to leave for Rome Monday.

## Noor set to open centre for handicapped

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor will open Saturday Al Raja'a centre for the rehabilitation of the handicapped here. The centre was established by the Queen Alia Jordan Welfare Fund (QAJWF) with assistance from Qatar. The centre, built on a 1,700 square metre piece of land, includes a school, a clinic, two for the rehabilitation of deaf-mutes and other services. At least 150 children can be accommodated at the centre.

## UNEP team here to fight desertification

AMMAN (Petra) — A United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) four-member mission is currently visiting Jordan to study ways of combating desertification and improving the Jordanian environment. Accompanying the mission on its tour are a number of Ministry of Agriculture engineers.

## German agency photo show slated

AMMAN (J.T.) — An exhibition of photography by Anne-Marie Kost, of the German Agency for Technical Cooperation, is scheduled to be opened on December 11 at 5:00 p.m. at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel. The exhibition, which will feature "Arabian and African scenes," will open under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Al Hussein.

## World Bank to support education projects

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Education Secretary-General Abdul Latif Arabiyat returned from New York Sunday evening after holding talks with the World Bank regarding financing for the sixth educational project. The bank has agreed to grant a \$40 million loan to finance a number of educational institutions included in the sixth project of ministry, Dr. Arabiyat said.



Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem (second from right) briefs the press delegation from the Union of Journalists of the Soviet Union on Jordan's stand in relation to the Palestinians (Petra photo)

## Qasem meets Soviet journalists

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Foreign Affairs Marwan Al Qasem Sunday morning received the visiting Soviet press delegation and explained to them Jordan's stand towards the Middle East crisis with special reference to the recent developments in the Palestinian issue.

Mr. Qasem also voiced Jordan's keenness to achieve a peaceful settlement that entails an Israeli withdrawal from the pre-1967 occupied Arab territories and a guarantee for the Palestinian people's legitimate rights including the right to self-determination.

Mr. Qasem reiterated Jordan's support for the independence of the Palestinian decision and leg-

itimate leadership.

Speaking about the current painful situation in Lebanon and the Iraqi-Iranian war, Mr. Qasem pointed out the necessity for continuing international efforts to put an end to these situations in the interest of the countries concerned and their people and to bring peace and stability to the region.

Later the Soviet press delegation held talks with the Union of Journalists of the Soviet Union and the Jordanian Journalists Association.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed ways of promoting cooperation between Jordanian and Soviet journalists through

exchange visits and information and press material.

They also discussed the provision of medical treatment for Jordanian journalists in Soviet hospitals.

The talks are being held within the framework of an agreement between the Jordanian and Soviet governments signed at the end of last year. The Jordanian side in the talks was led by President of the Jordanian Journalists Association Mahmoud Al Kayed.

## King condoles Majali family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday delegated His Highness Prince Mohammad to convey his condolences to Al Majali family on the death of Saleh Al Majali who was buried in Karak Sunday at noon.

Prince Mohammad also attended the funeral ceremony.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran delegated the acting governor of Karak to participate at the funeral

and to convey his condolences to the family.

Also taking part in the funeral of Mr. Majali, were the speaker of the National Consultative Council (NCC) Suleiman Arar, a number of ministers, NCC and Senate members, senior officials and a large crowd of mourners.

Saleh Al Majali, a former minister and senate member, died Saturday at the age of 73.

## Music hall charms Amman audience

By Anne Counsell  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Amman Players presentation of an "Old Time Music Hall," staged Saturday and Sunday evenings in the Royal Cultural Centre studio, was a lively, informal and entertaining night out.

Twenty members of the Amman Players sang, danced and joked throughout the varied programme accompanied by Vanessa Batrouni and producer Kitty Ephgrave at the two pianos. The short, sharp sketches and variety in the repertoire held the attention of the audience who participated in the sing-a-long choruses of the old music hall favourites.

## Verbose preambles

Supervising the proceedings was the Master of Ceremonies, Jack Riggs, who introduced the acts with verbose preambles. The acts themselves were generally well presented and the sketches very amusing if one could hear all the jokes between the bursts of laughter from the audience.

Particularly good was the suit sketch in which the salesman, Don Pengilly, sold a "universal size" suit to the customer, John Alford. Although a farcical scenario, it was effective in exaggerating a situation that many of us have encountered with a pushy salesperson pressuring a purchase.

The selection of songs was varied and typical of the traditions of music hall with catchy choruses. Pat Pengilly, in a top hat borrowed from one British ambassador, sang "Berlington Bertie from Bow" in her distinctive, strong and clear voice in addition to two other excellent solos.

## Jovial atmosphere

The jovial atmosphere of turn of the century music hall was characterised by "My Old Man Said Follow the Van" sung by Doreen Mathams and the wonderful interpretation of "Old MacDonald had a Farm" presented by Evelyn and Larry Cooper, which was a delightful and highly amusing presentation.

The inclusion of the Stuart McPherson country and western band with Alison Woods out front added variety to the show, but the

length of their set detracted from the music hall atmosphere and broke the continuity.

## Local flavour

The local flavour was maintained by references to shops in Amman and a light-hearted joke about Alia, The Royal Jordanian Airline, in "Oh Mr. Porter", sung

## REVIEW

by Pauline Waters and Evelyn Cooper, that was cleverly incorporated and effective.

The use of different English accents was also very well done from the cockney rendition of "Any Old Iron", sung by Fizz Waters and Don Pengilly, to the frightfully proper accent of John Bradley in "Have some Madeira M'Dear".

Mr. Bradley, who could easily to typecast as an Oxbridge undergraduate, also did very well in his attempted recital of "The Green Eye of the Yellow God", a poem by Milton Hayes, in spite of repeated interruptions by Fizz Waters and Jeff Ball who portrayed stereotypical British army officers possessing more up to date information regarding the situation in Katmandu.

Despite a few minor flaws, the Amman Players did well and provided an enjoyable evening's entertainment and as usual the proceeds are going to charity making it even more worthwhile.

The money will go to the "Home for the Daughters of Martyrs", a school providing an education and home for the daughters and sisters of men killed in the battle for the Palestinian cause, regardless of their nationality.

## Arab ministerial meeting convenes here

## UAE minister warns against food shortages

AMMAN (J.T.) — The economy and trade minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Seif Ali Al Jarwan, called Sunday for the development of national resources to avert possible food shortages in the Arab World, according to Reuters News Agency.

Wahid Asfour.

The council was set up in 1962 to bring economic integration among the members of the Arab League.

The council has set up four companies in whose capital the members participate and which are expected to assist Arab nations in achieving economic self-sufficiency.

An antibiotics plant is being built near Baghdad as the first project of the Arab Company for Drug Industries and Medical Appliances (ACDIMA), while a broiler chicken farm is nearing completion in Jordan and sheep farms and other animal projects are being operated by the Arab Company for the Development of Animal Wealth.

Mining, industrial investment, printing and overland transport companies have either been formed or are being planned as part of this self-sufficiency campaign.

He told the start of a two-day annual ministerial meeting of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) that Arab countries, collectively and individually, imported most of their commodities and this increased the danger of food shortages in the Arab World.

Arab countries should step up efforts to exploit their potential and establish joint Arab projects with a view to achieving a comprehensive and balanced national economies, the minister said.

CAEU Secretary-General Mahdi Al Obeidi also addressed the meeting saying that the world economic crisis was adversely affecting Arab economies which required concerted counter-

measures by Arab governments. The ministers of economy, trade and finance from Arab League member states will discuss in the two-day meeting issues connected with Arab economic integration, and programmes and plans by the CAEU.

They will also discuss a report by the council's secretary-general on Arab economies especially oil exports which constitute 80 per cent of Arab exports, as well as the establishment of an Arab federation for drug manufacturers, according to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra.

It added that Jordan's delegation to the meeting is being led by Minister of Industry and Trade

## Cooperatives, population trends symposium begins

AMMAN (Petra) — A five-day symposium on cooperatives and population trends opened at the Jordan Cooperative Institute Saturday.

The symposium is designed to familiarise members and leaders of cooperative organisations on population issues and their effects on economic and social activity.

The first session was addressed by Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) Director-General Hassan Nabulsi who spoke about population growth in Jordan.

He said that since 1948, Jordan has witnessed an increase in its population largely due to forced immigration caused by Zionist aggression and Israel's arbitrary measures against the Arab inhabitants of the occupied territories.

Israel, he said, wants an empty land to settle more Jewish people.

In his speech Mr. Nabulsi also spoke about the role of cooperative organisations in Jordan in overcoming population problems.

Altogether Jordan has 85 cooperative societies with a total of 6,421 members in addition to 181 agricultural cooperative societies

which help farmers to carry out their work and settle them near their land, Mr. Nabulsi said.

Also speaking at the opening session was Labour Ministry Under-Secretary Tayseer Abdul Jaber who referred to the seminars and training programmes on population and cooperatives which are being held in Jordan.

In reference to Jordan's population, Dr. Abdul Jaber said that nearly a quarter of a million people are employed abroad, and that they transfer considerable amounts of their income to be invested in their homeland.

The symposium was organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour, the Jordan Cooperative Institute, the International Labour Organisation and the U.N. Fund for Population Activities.

## Two killed in bus crash

AMMAN (J.T.) — A road accident on the Mafrq H-4 highway Saturday caused the death or injury of 28 people, according to a report in Al Ra'i newspaper Sunday.

It said that the accident involved a Kuwaiti bus carrying 34 passengers and driven by Imad Abdullah, a Jordanian, and a pick-up truck with Khleif Oudeh Al Seeb in the driving seat.

The bus ran into the back of the truck which was parked at the side of the road and immediately burst into flames killing the driver instantly and at least one of the passengers and trapping the rest, the report said.

According to the paper, 15 of the passengers were taken to Al Mafrq government hospital for treatment while nine others were sent to the Zarqa hospital.

## Ibrahim briefs U.S. team

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Hassan Ibrahim conferred in his office Sunday with the visiting U.S. congressional delegation and briefed them on the general condition of Palestinian refugees.

The minister spoke about the adverse effects on the refugees as a result of the reduction of services offered to them by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for

Palestinian refugees (UNRWA). During the meeting, Mr. Ibrahim also spoke about the sufferings of the Palestinians and the arbitrary measures exercised by the Israelis against the Arab inhabitants of the occupied lands.

A just peace cannot be achieved unless the Palestinians regain the right to self-determination in their homeland, the minister said.

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Alia

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The Alia Club would like to announce a change of date in the staging of its gala night. It will no longer be held on Thursday December 8 but will now take place on Wednesday December 7 at the Intercontinental Hotel at 8:30 p.m.

We also apologise for the previous erroneous announcements which appeared in the newspapers about the change of day.

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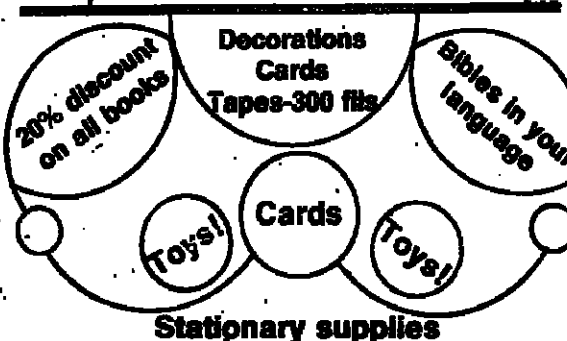
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# Is 1984 budget contractionary?

1983 re-estimates may present a more optimistic feeling, but who can be sure that the 1984 draft budget will have a better chance for full implementation than that of 1983? The increase in domestic revenues from an estimate of JD 424 million in 1983 to JD 449 million in 1984 may not be realised unless new sources are tapped or present revenues increased.

The contractionary effect of the 1984 budget on the economy should be compensated for by an expansionary monetary policy and stimulating investment and trade measures. Otherwise, even the attainment of the budget objectives would become more difficult.

مکاتبات



# Movies: The most popular programme on TV

While television programme come and go, films are eternally popular. Chris Dunkley looks at the future of the movies.

There is just one type of programme material which practically everybody in the television industry — whether broadcaster, investor or hardware whiz kid — seems to agree will definitely attract audiences to the new technologies: Movies.

In the past year or so confidence in the future of cable and satellite television has vacillated wildly. Beliefs about the prospects for, say, an all-news channel vary depending upon whom you talk to. Some point to Ted Turner's American news cables and declare that similar ventures will succeed elsewhere. Others say that the Americans are the only ones with the money nowadays to sustain proper global news operations and that American news will not interest other viewers.

Some believe more and more sports bodies will do television deals for exclusive and therefore high-price cable coverage. Others believe that the economics will work only in a few specialised cases: World heavyweight title fights, top snooker matches, and so on.

The one thing about which there is unanimity in cinema films. Everyone agrees they will work, and it is not hard to see why. The biggest success story of American cable is Home Box Office whose main offering is movies.

It is not yet widely appreciated that cable channels involve an entirely new attitude towards television. Instead of a "broadcaster" developing a carefully mixed output of comedy followed

by news followed by drama and so on in a schedule designed to catch and hold the viewer, cable operators, especially on movie channels, can afford to offer perhaps only five items a week, repeated over and over again so that the viewer can choose his own time to watch.

The prospects for cable movie channels of that sort in Britain seem as bright as anywhere in view of the huge popularity of movies on our existing broadcast networks. Recent viewing figures for instance show the number 1 spot in BBC's Top Ten filled by a repeat showing of the 1968 Clint Eastwood movie *Coogan's Bluff* with 10.5 million viewers.

Nor was that the biggest movie audience of that week: The independent channel, ITV, attracted 13.75 million with *Jaws 2*. Nor was it the oldest movie: *Battle of the River Plate*, the week's most popular programme on Channel 4, first appeared in 1956. Come to that, the John Wayne western *Tall in the Saddle*, which was fifth in the BBC Top Ten, was first released during World War II. Nor, incidentally, was it the rottenest film to get into a Top Ten: That claim goes to *Tarzan and the Valley of Gold* which came eighth on the BBC2 list with 2.9 million viewers.

The fact is that, other things being equal (time of day, the opposition and so on), an old movie will almost invariably prove more popular than one of television's own programmes. Yet the cost of movies is only a fraction of the cost of original television. At the BBC the cost of a first showing of a bought-in film averages about £15,000 (\$22,000) an hour whereas their own drama costs £200,000 (\$300,000) an hour.



John Wayne

In fact films are cheaper than almost everything: Making comedy at the BBC now costs £140,000 an hour, variety £75,000, educational programmes £65,000, features and documentaries £60,000, children's programmes £45,000, and even current affairs cost twice as much as films: £30,000 an hour. Only repeats at £2,500 an hour are substantially cheaper than films. Furthermore, according to figures recently quoted by BBC Director General Alasdair Milne, ITV's average costs are 34 per cent higher than the BBC's.

Thus it is not difficult to understand the temptation for broadcasters to include films in their schedules as often as possible. Nor is it difficult on the other hand to appreciate the fury of our residual film industry when it sees television raiding the cinema store cupboard and using their old stock to "steal" the audience. Presumably if the film industry could make a better profit by showing the films in cinemas they would not sell to television, but that does not cheer up the cinema enthusiasts very much.

Having myself grown up with films and not with television my first love was the cinema and there are certain films which I believe

should never be watched on the box. Some directors worked with such profound consciousness of the circumstances in which their films would be seen — in large, dark, crowded public areas with the picture larger than life and dominating the proceedings — that it is absurd to commit their films to a little screen in the corner of a brightly lit sitting room where chattering family groups dominate the picture.

From D.W. Griffith's stupendous movie *Intolerance* to Lucas's *Star Wars* in which the Dolby sound system of a big cinema plays an essential part, some of the greatest films ever made should not be watched on television except by those who definitely stand no chance of seeing them in their intended surroundings. Millions of people will get their first opportunity to see the greatest achievement of the silent cinema, Abel Gance's *Napoleon*, which is being shown this month (November) on British television.

But nobody should imagine that watching it on a small screen at home can reproduce the aesthetic or emotional experience of sitting in the Empire Theatre Leicester Square with a full orchestra accompanying the film. The momentous impact of the final triptych sequence projected onto three adjoining cinema screens cannot be even approximated by television. How would Beethoven's Ninth sound on a piano accompaniment?

That said, I am grateful like so many viewers for the chance to watch again those classic movies which do not lose all that much from being on the box: *The Philadelphia Story* and the 1941 Preston Sturges comedy *The Lady*

Eve starring Barbara Stanwyck as a stunning cardsharp in real silk stockings with Henry Fonda as the sucker, both recently shown on British television.

Already this year BBC2 has provided a marvellous season of Marilyn Monroe movies from *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* to *The Misfits*, and now channel 4 is running a fascinating season called "What The Censor Saw". The huge advantage here is that instead of being flung into the schedules piecemeal as ratings bait, the films have been selected with some care and are being introduced on screen — albeit too briefly — by ITV's chief film buyer Leslie Halliwell.

Many of the prints used by television actually seem to be better than those habitually seen in art house cinemas.

In the end the important question is this: Given that our conventional broadcast networks and cable television and satellite services all want lots of movies, and given that the decline of the cinema seems irreversible, can television itself somehow create the necessary material? At one time I believed it could, and that something like Channel 4's co-production scheme with films such as the British-made *The Ploughman's Lunch* and *Angel* seemed very promising.

But now that we are actually seeing them come to the screen the results are discouraging: In the cinema *The Ploughman's Lunch* looks like stretched television, and not one of the Film On Four productions I have seen so far has displayed the magic of true cinema.

Thanks to its style and ethos, thanks to the very palaces to which the fans flocked to see the films, cinema created stars: Greta



Marilyn Monroe

Garbo, Gregory Peck, John Wayne, Marilyn Monroe. They were larger than life and offered to take us out of our lives and into realms of fantasy.

The "new wave" directors now working on the borders between cinema and TV — Roland Jose, Richard Eyre, Mike Leigh and Stephen Frears — are clearly not the least interested in fantasy. On the contrary their chief concern seems to be rubbing our noses in their version of humanity. They owe far more to the traditions of television than to the cinema.

The flickering box in the corner of our rooms at home has an entirely different style and ethos and the most that television has ever managed to create is domestic personalities: Michael Parkinson, Angela Rippon, Terry Wogan, Eamonn Andrews. As with a cheeky milkman or batty neighbour it is their familiarity which is valued. They are only too "real" and life-size. When viewers chance to meet them in the street they say "Hello" thinking they know them.

I am afraid television will never be a proper substitute for cinema, and there will be a monumental fight between the new technology and the old for those scarce stocks of the real McCoy. — Financial Times news feature.

Randa Habib's

Corner

## Overzealous helpers

The other day I was a witness to an accident that shook me.

Only twenty metres from my house, a car hit a child 7 or 8 years old who was crossing the road. Attracted by the accident, passers by, drivers and members of the child's family gathered around the child, who was screaming in pain while all the people were creating a commotion.

Finally, the driver who had hit the child screamed that the child should be taken to the hospital. Soon enough, at least 10 people (I am not exaggerating) rushed to the car, all wanting to accompany the child.

Finally, 5 people squeezed themselves into that car and the others said they would follow. It was then that the worst happened. The child was carried in a careless way and placed on the lap of one of the two front-seat passengers. I could not but think of the consequences of such carelessness.

I know a young lady who was victim of a small accident. Having fainted, she was transported by passers by in such a way that she was treated for neck problems for six months afterwards.

Jordanians are known to be generous and spontaneous. They rush to help you if they feel you need it.

However, panic and bad organisation can be very costly to the person who needs help. For heaven's sake, let us not carry a wounded person like a bag of potatoes.

## 10 billion stamps sold annually in W. Germany

BONN The Bundespost sells roughly DM 10 billion worth of postage stamps a year. Stamps to the value of about DM 285 million are bought by collectors, of which there are an estimated 3.5m in the Federal Republic of Germany. Some 800,000 have all new issues sent to them by one of the three philatelic bureaux, which also handle 430,000 one-off orders a year.

Alongside definitive and special issues for the Federal Republic and West Berlin there are 22 stamps a year with a surcharge for charity. The proceeds go to charities, youth organisations and the Sports Aid Foundations.

Stamp collecting rivals sport as one of the Germans' favourite hobbies. Philatelists have lately paid increasing attention to the pre-stamp era and to special letters, postcards and cancellations — German feature.

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## SPORTS

## Al Jazirah beats Al Ahli in 2nd leg of Premier Division soccer match

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Jazirah soccer team Sunday defeated Al Ahli 2-1 in the first match of the second leg of the Premier Division football league. The match was attended by about 12,000 spectators here at the Hussein Sports City stadium.

Al Ahli scored the first goal in the 19th minute when midfielder Shaker Salameh scored a header past Jazirah's goalkeeper after a pass from Issa Al Turk. Throughout the first half both teams played equally well taking turns in threatening each others' nets.

Al Jazirah, whose search for the net intensified in the second half came very close on several occasions with powerful shots and superb solo runs until the 77th minute when forward Hilmi Taha was able to score the equaliser

after feinting through Al Ahli defenders and powering a steep volley into the net.

Three minutes before the end of the match, Jazirah's Salah Ahmad was able to penetrate the Al Ahli defence after a run and a devastating long range shot that hit the net scoring the second goal and giving the edge for Al Jazirah over Al Ahli 2-1.

The substitution that Al Ahli coach made to his team in the second half as well as change of tactics did not pay off.

## Two more seeds out of Open

MELBOURNE (R) — Brian Teacher and Steve Denton joined Vitas Gerulaitis on the casualty list of seeded Americans when they were knocked out of the Australian Open Tennis Championships at Kooyong on Sunday.

Australian teenager Pat Cash snuffed out a mid-match revival by 11th-seeded Teacher, the 1980 champion here, to gain a third round victory after five tense sets 6-4, 7-6, 6-7, 3-6, 7-5.

In the same round Denton, the 14th seed, succumbed to a gritty performance by Britain's John Lloyd, who overcame his early doubts to win 7-6, 6-2, 6-3.

The sixth-seeded Gerulaitis, who beat Lloyd in the 1977 final, was eliminated on Saturday by Swiss-based Hungarian Zoltan Kuharszky, playing only his second grass court tournament.

Cash, 18, now faces an awesome fourth round task against Czechoslovak top seed Ivan Lendl, who rallied from one set down to beat American Peter

Fleming 6-7, 7-6, 6-3, 6-4 on Sunday.

Fleming's doubles partner John McEnroe, seeded to meet Lendl in the final, managed to ignore a touch of tendonitis in his left shoulder long enough to secure a straight-sets victory over India's Ramesh Krishnan 6-4, 7-5, 6-1.

In the women's tournament, top seed Martina Navratilova's path to the final was further smoothed by the shock withdrawal of Czechoslovak Hana Mandlikova with a pulled groin muscle.

The American world number one, beaten only once this year, is a strong favourite to win back the title she lost to Chris Lloyd last year following the non-appearance here of her main rivals — compatriots Lloyd, Andrea Jaeger and Tracy Austin.

Mandlikova was forced to quit during her second round match with American Sharon Walsh, who was leading 6-2, 1-0, after a fall during which she said she felt the groin muscle snap.

Navratilova had an effortless

6-1, 6-0 win over Australian Liz Sayers and next meets South African number one Ros Fairbank.

Veteran star Billie Jean King, Australian Open Champion in 1968, received a standing ovation on Sunday despite her 7-6, 4-6, 6-4 defeat by Cathy Tanvier of France, 22 years her junior.

British hopes Jo Durie and Virginia Wade had mixed fortunes against Americans Gigi Fernandez and Kathy Jordan.

Durie, the British number one who won the New South Wales Open two weeks ago, had little trouble disposing of Fernandez 6-2, 6-2. But Wade, the 1972 champion, lost the struggle against Jordan 6-4, 4-6, 6-1.

The home crowd's hero of the day, Cash, first served for the match at 5-1 in the third set before Teacher replied with a string of winners, saving a total of six match points.

Cash explained Teacher's comeback later. "I was talking to him after the match and he said he finally got his rhythm."

## Seko wins Fukuoka marathon

FUKUOKA, Japan (R) — Toshiko Seko of Japan passed Tanzanian Juma Ikangaa in the final 100 metres to win the Fukuoka marathon on Sunday as U.S. favourite Alberto Salazar ended the first losing year of his running career with another defeat.

Seko, 27, who also won this prestigious race from 1978 to 1980, showed no effects of a leg muscle injury which made him a doubtful starter as he bided his time just off the pace before first passing Salazar and then, as he neared the finish line, Ikangaa.

Seko clocked two hours eight minutes and 52 seconds, the eighth fastest time in marathon history. Last February he ran the fifth fastest time, 2:08.38, to win the Tokyo marathon.

Ikangaa, who had led the race from the start, was second in 2:08.55, just three seconds behind Seko, while Salazar was also overtaken by the Japanese twins, Shigeru and Takeshi Soh, and finished fifth in 2:09.21.

Salazar, who ran the world's

best time of 2:08.13 to win the 1981 New York marathon, had seemed optimistic before Sunday's race. "But I just didn't have it today," he said dejectedly before walking away from reporters and refusing further comment.

It ended the sort of year Salazar must have felt he might never have after he dominated the world's marathon scene by winning in New York from 1980 to 1982 and also taking the Boston marathon in 1982.

His hopes for 1983 were to improve his marathon record, race if possible against Seko and Australian Rob de Castella and attack the world 10,000 metres record.

But after placing only fourth in the World Cross Country event early in the year, another title he was determined to take, Salazar suffered his first defeat in five marathons when de Castella beat him in Rotterdam early in April.

Injury probably wrecked his chances there, and the race forced him out of the U.S. trial for the World Championships, where he settled instead for the 10,000 metres. There, however, he barely

qualified for the final, where he finished last.

"He was not fit enough to run in the New York event late in October, but he turned up here saying he once again felt in top form and was ready to go under 2:08 if necessary."

Seko, conversely, had his recent training interrupted by a leg muscle injury and only Saturday did he confirm that he would run, saying he was aiming only to finish among the top three Japanese to qualify for the 1984 Olympic marathon.

On Sunday he settled into a pack of chasers just behind Ikangaa and Salazar until he overtook them both, waiting until the last minute to pass the Tanzanian.

"My leg did not affect me. But I was not sure of my condition because I did not have enough training after suffering the muscle injury three weeks ago," he said.

"I didn't think I could win because of the injury and my lack of training. But I became sure that I would after passing the 40-km (24-mile) mark."

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Interviews will be held at the Amra Hotel, 6th Circle: Monday through Friday December 5th - 9th. For appointments on fixed time and day call 815071 ext. 1227, Amman.

### INVITATION TO TENDER

The Amman Municipality intends to invite tenders in early 1984 for the construction of four interchanges and traffic improvement works in the central business district, and two major traffic corridors.

The interchanges will include overpasses and underpasses, and associated street lighting and signalisation.

The traffic improvement works will include improvement to road surfaces, road widening, repair and construction of footpaths, street lighting, signalisation and road markings.

Contractors from member countries of the World Bank, Switzerland and Taiwan who are experienced in either or both of these types of works and who wish to be considered for invitation to bid must prequalify.

Prequalification questionnaires may be obtained by applying in writing or by telex to the address below.

One copy of the completed questionnaire should be sent to that address by December 31, 1983 by contractors who wish to be considered for the corridor work, or by January 31, 1984 by contractors who are interested only in the interchanges.

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## ECONOMY

## Kremlin calls for speed up in introducing 'team contract'

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet leadership Sunday called for a speed up in the introduction of a new labour system making workers' wages more closely dependent on their performance.

A decree issued by the Communist Party and the government said the so-called "team contract" system had proved highly successful in raising productivity rates and should be quickly applied to all sectors of industry.

But ministries, regional authorities and trade unions now had to ensure it was put into effect much more rapidly, it said.

Under the system, workers have to form teams which receive a group payment for their labour from factory managers. The workers then decide among themselves how to share out the money.

The group's income is heavily dependent on their output or productivity levels, and the government decree said this had led to a cutback in wasted manpower and some sharp increases in efficiency.

The team contract system has been operating on a very limited scale for several years but since Mr. Yuri Andropov took power as communist leader a year ago, there has been a drive to introduce it in both manufacturing industry and agriculture.

The method has, in the past, met with strong resistance from ideological hardliners who saw it as a return to a capitalist-style wage system based solely on financial incentives.

There has also been opposition from managers and regional officials, who see it as a dilution of

their control over the workers, and from the workers themselves, who often prefer the comfort of a guaranteed monthly salary.

The effect has been to slow down introduction of the new system despite the Kremlin's strong backing for it.

According to Soviet sources, only 6 per cent of the industrial labour force is so far working on a team contract basis although the leadership has been campaigning for its adoption for nearly a year.

Sunday's government decree also stressed that engineers and technicians should be included in production teams whenever possible.

This reflected Kremlin attempts to put experts in closer touch with production methods in order to speed up the modernisation of outdated industrial plants.

## Shipbuilding industry may regain strength after '86

TOKYO (R) — World shipbuilding may regain some of its former strength after 1986 but until then some yards, especially in Europe, will pass through one of the worst periods in their history, according to industry experts here.

"We now face a bigger crisis than we have ever encountered in the past," European Community Commission Industry Director Daniele Verdiani told journalists after a recent meeting on shipbuilding held by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

The meeting brought together representatives of most of the world's shipbuilding nations to discuss the present state of the market.

Since the first oil crisis in 1973 the world has seen to many shipyards chasing too few orders, causing most countries to cut back shipbuilding capacity and resort to state subsidies to battle their way through the fierce competition.

Mr. Albert Gruebel, chairman of the meeting, told journalists a major worry among many countries is the increasing share of the depleted world market being taken by Far East shipbuilders.

While Japan has slimmed down its yard capacity since the sharp drop in world demand for shipping, especially tankers, it still takes the lion's share of new orders.

Total world orders this year will be slightly higher than last year's 29.70 million gross registered tonnes against 28.93 million in 1973. Japan took orders for 9.73 million tonnes in 1982 against 59.60 million in 1973, OECD figures issued at the meeting show.

Mr. Gruebel said, "I am sure we will see a growth in shipbuilding again," adding OECD experts feel there will be an improvement in two years time although the crisis will last until then.

A major concern for the European yards is the recent rapid inroads made into their traditional markets by South Korea.

The OECD figures show orders to South Korean yards totalled 2.55 million gross registered tonnes last year and have already topped 4 million this year. Yet in 1973 Korea only took orders for 1.30 million tonnes.

Orders at European yards fell to 7.41 million tonnes last year from 54.87 million in 1973, but so far this year they have attracted less than 5.50 million tonnes.

Mr. Verdiani told journalists the Europeans feel South Korean ships are low priced to the point of only covering the cost of raw materials.

"At this rate, in two or three years we will no longer see any European ship construction," he said.

However, the European complaints fell on deaf ears in Tokyo. South Korea has repeatedly ignored OECD invitations to attend meetings to discuss the current state of the world shipbuilding market.

## Tebbit, Saudis hold talks

BAHRAIN (R) — British Trade and Industry Secretary Norman Tebbit Sunday discussed with Saudi Arabia's Planning Minister Hisham Nazer how Britain could help in the kingdom's development projects, the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

He said Saudi Arabia was also looking to new world markets,

especially for its petrochemical products, the agency added.

Mr. Tebbit was quoted by the Saudi agency Saturday as saying his government was seeking improved trade ties with the kingdom.

He said present economic changes in Britain would help make it "a trustworthy partner that can provide the Saudi market with its

needs."

The deputy board chairman of the government-owned Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (Sabic), Mr. Ibrahim Bin Salma, said after a meeting with Mr. Tebbit Saturday his company was prepared to carry out projects with British companies.

Mr. Tebbit, who arrived in Riyadh on Friday held several meetings with other ministers and visited Saudi industrial centres.

Saudi Arabia is Britain's ninth biggest market, taking £1.4 billion (\$2.2 billion) in British exports last year, mainly construction and building equipment and consumer goods.

## OPEC's unity could face test over output quotas

BAHRAIN (R) — The fragile unity of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) could face a severe test at its ministerial meeting starting on Wednesday in Geneva, oil industry analysts said Sunday.

Although originally billed as a non-controversial meeting likely to reaffirm OPEC's self-imposed production ceiling of 17.5 million barrels per day (b/d) and benchmark price of \$29 a barrel, a number of countries have recently indicated they intend to seek an increase in their production quota.

"If they bring up the quota question at this meeting, they'll be opening a can of worms," one oil industry analyst said.

"Demand for oil is too weak to allow an increase in the overall ceiling. So if one member's quota is increased, it will be at the expense of the others," he said.

Iran and Iraq, opponents in the 38-month-old Gulf war, have both said they intend to seek an increase in their own quotas.

Venezuela and Indonesia are among other countries which have indicated they will press for higher quotas, while Nigerian sources say the issue has also been debated in Lagos.

Indonesian Oil Minister Subroto said last month: "Obviously, with a population of 150 million, we need a bigger quota. We can use every cent we can earn from oil."

Iraqi Oil Minister Qassem Ahmad Taqi has said his country wants to boost its quota to 1.8 million barrels daily from 1.2 million, while Iranian Deputy Oil Minister Abbas Hornadoost said Iran

would seek a daily quota increase to 3.2 million barrels from 2.4 million unless Saudi Arabia cut its output.

The analysts said the drop in demand for oil has hit oil producers with large populations and big import bills harder than those with smaller populations, such as the Gulf states.

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter but with a population of around nine million people, has become the most likely target for the OPEC nations which want to boost output.

Asked Saturday if Iran would accept a cut in its own oil quota to support its controversial call for a \$5 increase in the price of oil, Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi said it was Saudi Arabia's duty to reduce its market share.

Asked what would be a fair quota for Saudi output, Mr. Gharazi said Iran had a population of 40 million people and a quota of 2.4 million barrels "so you may calculate how much theirs should be."

Some analysts said the problem might be defused if Saudi oil production, which has dropped substantially in recent weeks, falls further in the early part of next year.

They said Saudi Arabia is upgrading its natural gas production and distribution system in the first and second quarters of 1984, a factor which may force the country to reduce oil output.

The improvement is thought to be necessary to prevent a recurrence of power cuts which hit the country's Eastern Province in June, they said. Natural gas associated with crude oil production is the major fuel for electricity generation.

Daily Saudi production has already fallen to around 5 million barrels a day from almost 6 million at the start of the fourth quarter, reflecting a general decline in demand for oil over the past few weeks, industry sources say.

Output of the 13 OPEC countries has also sunk as demand has fallen off.

From close to 19 million barrels a day at times in the third quarter, production is now running only slightly above the organisation's 17.5 million barrels a day ceiling.

Even the lower level of Saudi production is apparently not all being sold, with some going into floating storage in oil tankers outside the Gulf, the sources said.

They said the quota problem might also be resolved by reducing quotas to exclude domestic consumption, as suggested by Venezuelan Oil Minister Jose Ignacio Moreno Leon in an interview published Saturday.

"The world market is affected by the oil sold in it and not the oil consumed by the producing countries," Mr. Moreno Leon told the Caracas Daily Journal.

## U.S. decision on Chinese textiles could hurt relations

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Commerce Department will issue a tentative report next Tuesday on whether China is using unfair tactics in exporting textiles to the United States.

President Reagan is scheduled to visit China in April, and a decision against the Chinese could undermine recent efforts to build better ties between Washington and Peking.

The Chinese textile exports, largely clothing, have grown rapidly in recent years. In 1982 China was the fourth biggest supplier to the U.S. market, shipping goods worth a total of \$800 million.

Peking has denied charges by U.S. textile makers and mill workers that its goods are unfairly subsidised. Many in the American textile business disagree.

Mr. John Greenwald, a member of the legal team representing the U.S. industry, says the subsidies are plain to see but may become

obscured because of the delicate diplomatic situation.

The allegations directed at China in the textile case pose novel issues that test U.S. foreign trade law.

First, investigators must decide whether U.S. trade penalties designed to counter unfair competition can be applied to countries such as communist China with controlled economies.

The United States has never addressed that question before. Many trade experts believe the U.S. trade laws apply to all foreign countries, and thus the United States is legally obliged to invoke the anti-subsidy statute against the Chinese.

But others argue that the decades-old law was fashioned at a time when the United States had few dealings with communist countries and made no allowances for the unique circumstances that exist in non-market economies.

Besides that knotty question, investigators must grapple with the nature of the alleged subsidies in the textile case.

At issue is whether the complex exchange rate structure adopted by China to promote exports is a form of subsidy.

Under the structure, Chinese exporters can convert foreign exchange earnings into Chinese currency at a rate more favourable than the official exchange rate.

For textile exporters, the special exchange rate provides a subsidy of about 40 per cent, the U.S. industry contends.

A few days before the Commerce Department's preliminary decision was due, U.S. investigators said China had not submitted any detailed material to counter the U.S. complaints.

If the investigators found evidence to support the charges, importers would have to post bonds equal to the subsidy.

## Syria records marginal increase in oil production

BAHRAIN (R) — Syrian production of crude oil rose slightly this year over 1982 but is not expected to change in 1984, Syrian Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Abdel Jabbar Al Dahhak, was quoted as saying.

In an interview carried in the December bulletin of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), he said total Syrian production, now averaging 170,000 barrels daily, is expected to total about 8.4 million tonnes this year, up on the 8.2 million tonnes produced in 1982.

"No change is forecast for 1984," the minister said. He said Syria will have refined an average 180,000 barrels a day of crude this year, compared with its refining capacity of 220,000 barrels and a maximum actual production of 200,000.

Although production is intended to meet local demand, the surplus in products such as fuel oil is exported, while there is a shortfall in products such as commercial aviation fuel and liquefied gas, he said.

"Considerable quantities of gas oil, up to 300,000 tonnes annually, are also imported to meet the rising demand in the transport and industrial sectors," he was quoted as saying.

Dahhak said offers had already been made by several companies to study Syrian refinery needs in order to produce more light and less heavy product. "In light of these studies steps will be taken to implement suitable plans," he said.

He said a plant for processing associated gas, expected to produce about 45,000 tonnes of liquefied gas annually, will come onstream next March and meet the requirements of the north and east of the country. It will also produce about 150 million cubic metres of sweet gas a year, he said.

The minister said 80,000 to 90,000 square kilometres (30,000 to 35,000 square miles) of the country were covered by exploration. The state-owned Syrian Oil Company planned to drill about 45 exploratory wells in 1984 in the areas of Latakia, Deir Ezzor and Aleppo and near existing fields.

Foreign oil companies are also operating in Syria under service contracts, he said. Pecten International Company, a subsidiary of Shell oil company, will drill a new well in the Deir Ezzor area this month, he said.

Marathon Oil carrying out exploration in the Homs area, has already found considerable quantities of free gas, he said.

## OECD report optimistic on world financial system

PARIS (R) — Improved cooperation between indebted poor countries, commercial banks, national monetary authorities and international organisations has boosted confidence in the viability of the world financial system, a report said.

The latest monthly financial review of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) said successful negotiation of financial rescue packages for debt-strapped developing countries had bolstered bankers' belief that the system could overcome future strains.

Earlier this year, some bankers expressed fears that mounting Third World debt, particularly in South America, could trigger a collapse of the system.

But the report said the successful conclusion last month of a rescue package for Brazil, the Third World's most indebted nation, would be viewed positively by bankers and should pave the way for other international loan operations.

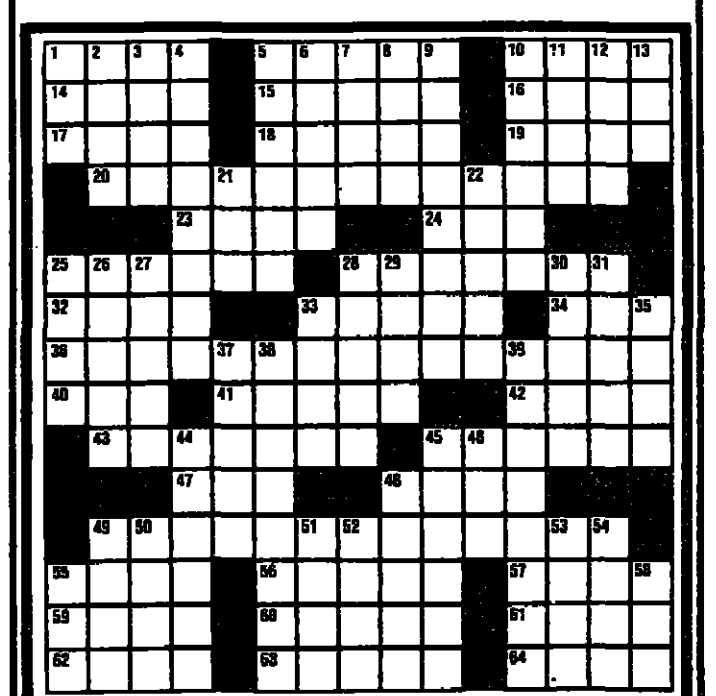
The report added, however, that banks' lending attitudes were likely to remain cautious in the short-term.

It also said mounting debt problems of the Philippines could lead to a general reticence of banks to lend to the Far East — a region which up to now has had a generally high credit rating.

## HOROSCOPE not received

## THE Daily Crossword by Margaret V. Judah

ACROSS	28 Assassins	55 Bigot's	13 A marshal
1 Phonograph	32 Celebes ox	56 Cent	of France
5 Lady	33 "If a body"	58 Courageous	21 A Strasberg
10 Cockcrow	34 Function	57 Banister	22 Kingly
14 About	35 — one's	59 160 square	25 Spots for
15 "Remember	eyes	60 Close by,	26 Accrue
the —"	(deceive)	to poets	27 Wise law-
16 Pa. city	40 Sign of	61 This —	28 Did tail-
17 Shopper's	41 Things to	sudden!	oring
milieu	sell	62 Coop group	29 Gent and
18 Defense	42 Nevada	63 Depper	Durocher
19 Resembling	city	64 Onetime	30 Poe's bird
rattan	43 Posted	actor	31 Fragrance
20 Action of	45 Sparse	Kruger	33 Simple
daydreamers	47 LBJ's dog	word	35 Siege city
23 Ego	48 Question	1 Beaver	37 Rough
24 Serling or	word	project	fabric
Steiger	49 Uncompro-	2 "When all	38 Shrew
25 Tenant	missing	at once —	39 "Heesiah,"
		a crowd"	44 College
		3 WWII town	papers
		4 Hugs	45 Wine
		5 Iron	46 Bird sound
		6 Half — is	48 Kansas
		better..."	product
		7 Pub game	49 Las Vegas
		8 Maled in	items
		9 Mysore	50 Tale
		10 Musical	51 Zola novel
		direction	52 Weight
		10 Settle	allowance
		11 Irish	53 Kiln
		Island	54 Caren
		12 Party	55 Word by
		faction	Scrooge
			58 Card game



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**THE BETTER HALF.** By Harris

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"In our case, IRA stands for Insignificant Retirement Account."

**JUMBLE.** THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PRAVO

TILEE

HARTOX

RICHEP

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

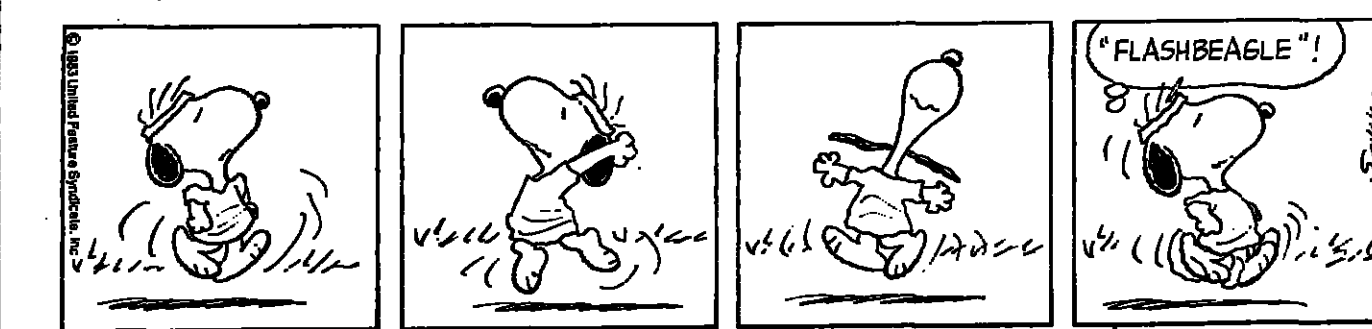
Answer: "YOU CAN"

(Answers tomorrow)

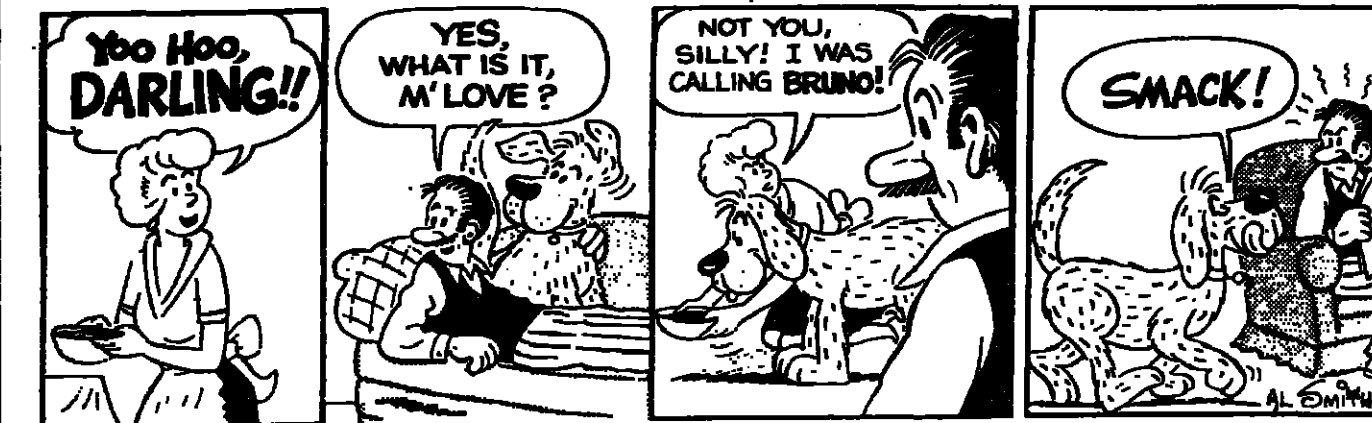
Saturday's Jumbles: POWER BLOAT FACIAL CLOVER

Answer: What happened when he put dynamite into the refrigerator? — HE BLEW HIS COOL

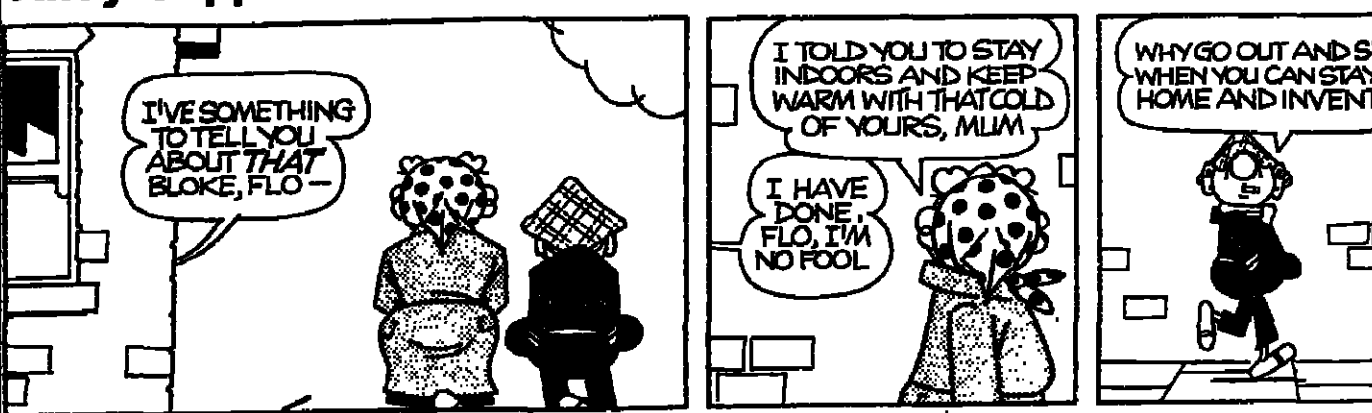
## Peanuts



## Mutt 'n' Jeff



## Andy Capp





## WORLD

## Shuttle flight extended by 1 day

HOUSTON (R) — Scientists whose experiments are now being carried out on the space shuttle Columbia were planning Sunday how to use the extra time in a space after officials extended the flight by a day.

U.S. and European Space Agency officials said the mission would last until next Thursday to allow more scientific research on board the European-built Spacelab research laboratory carried by the Columbia shuttle.

The extension was contingent upon good weather at the landing site in the California Desert.

The spacelab contains 73 experiments from 14 countries. Flight director John Cox said Saturday night: "The experimenters had a lot more to do than there was time to accommodate. They have all along wished and pushed and tried to make the flight last longer and do more of these things."

He said more than 100 scientists involved in the experiments would be making suggestions on how they would like to use the extra time.

The extension will allow extra work in the field of solar seismology, or observations of the sun, planned for the end of the flight.

This will be possible because the shuttle's orbital path will keep it in almost total sunlight from Tuesday.

Several equipment problems related to the experiments have developed, but mission officials

said they considered spacelab-1 a success.

A power supply unit failed, knocking out two furnaces used to heat or cool various substances and forcing seven experiments to be abandoned.

There was also a partial failure in a low light television camera and a still picture camera used to study the earth's atmosphere and magnetic fields as well as a device to make radar images of the earth's land and sea surfaces.

But an accelerator used to fire electron beams into space was believed to be working again after malfunctioning.

U.S. chief mission scientist Rick Chappell said the "rate of success is greater than 90 per cent. One cannot be disappointed with this mission."

## Turning back the clock

Meanwhile, space travel may have an effect on humans similar to "turning the evolutionary clock backwards," scientists Saturday said.

Two researchers who devised experiments being conducted by the men flying the space shuttle Columbia told reporters that prolonged exposure to zero-gravity

may reverse the physiology of humans developed through millions of years of evolution.

They said the effects of weightlessness could eventually lead to life forms resembling the amoeba because limbs and other parts of the human anatomy developed to deal with gravity would no longer be needed.

"Seventy-five per cent of our muscles are anti-gravity muscles which we don't need in space," Dr. Karl Kirch of the Free University of Berlin told reporters covering the first flight of the European space agency's spacelab aboard Columbia.

He said space travellers had already experienced temporary but reversible changes in body functions resulting from the virtual absence of gravity.

Dr. Kirch speculated that longer flights could prompt greater changes.

"That's why astronauts — and Soviet cosmonauts — experience a loss of calcium. They don't need their bones up there to support their bodies," he said.

He also said that is why most people develop a "puffiness" in their upper bodies during space flight.

Dr. Kirch explained that the human body has developed certain mechanisms — still unknown — that help keep body fluids from settling in the lower body because of gravity.

In the absence of gravity, how-

ever, those mechanisms still force the fluids into the upper torso, but there is no longer any force to counter their effect and the fluids collect in the face and other tissues.

There is a similar effect on blood, with the pressure in the veins of the upper body increasing in space flight.

Dr. Kirch and a colleague, Dr. Lothar Rocker, said four of the astronauts working in the orbiting spacelab are taking readings of their venous blood pressure and also samples of blood during their voyage to compare them with similar observations made before and after flight.

The experiment has a two-fold purpose. The first is to verify with precise measurements that the blood pressure in the upper body does indeed increase.

He said that this was already indicated by initial readings taken on the first and third days of the current shuttle mission.

The second purpose of the experiment is to compare the levels in the blood of a hormone which regulates fluid levels in the body through kidney function.

Most people have returned from space dehydrated, but the level of their Anti-Diuretic Hormone (ADH) has never been studied.

Dr. Rocker said he expected to find very low levels of ADH in the four spacelab crewmen when they return from orbit next week.

## Kuomintang wins Taiwan elections

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan's ruling Nationalist (Kuomintang) Party won a landslide victory in partial parliamentary elections with opposition candidates capturing nine of the 71 seats being contested.

The result was seen as a foregone conclusion because of firm Kuomintang support from its two million members, the military, and civil servants.

Loosely-bound opposition groups, mostly native Taiwanese, ran on a platform opposing martial law and demanding the right to form new political parties. Among their winning candidates was Fan Su-Min, whose husband was jailed for sedition after anti-government riots in Kaohsiung in 1979.

The Kuomintang had nominated 58 candidates and approved seven members to run on their own.

Partial parliamentary elections have been held every three years since 1969 as more seats are added to the legislative Yuan (parliament) due to rising population.

Most of the seats in the 379-seat legislative Yuan are held by elderly members who still claim to represent constituencies on the mainland. They were elected in 1948 and are not required to run for reelection as China is now under communist rule.

Incumbent legislator Kang Ning-Hsiang, a Tangwai politician (meaning outside the Kuomintang Party), lost his seat after polling only 30,000 votes.

Another incumbent non-partisan legislator Huang Tien-Fu, a comparatively radical opposition candidate, also lost his campaign for a second term of office.

Revival of the post has been str-

## Former Nigerian leader returns from exile

LAGOS (R) — After eight years of exile, former Nigerian head of state Yakubu Gowon returns home on a visit that has aroused intense speculation over his political intentions.

Gen. Gowon, 49, is due to arrive in Lagos Monday morning from Britain where he has spent his exile since being overthrown in a bloodless coup in July 1975.

A "committee of friends" organising his return, including several of his former cabinet members and military governors, insists that Gen. Gowon is not returning to a political role.

But, although presidential elections were concluded only in Sep-

tember, the jockeying for position for 1987 election candidates is already well under way and few Nigerians believe that Gen. Gowon will stand on the sidelines.

Political sources say senior members of Nigeria's major parties have visited Gen. Gowon in Britain, where he took a degree in political science, to try to persuade him to join them and bring the widespread popularity that he still enjoys to their side.

Gen. Gowon had told his visitors that only when he returned for good would he decide whether to re-enter politics, the sources said, adding Gen. Gowon had not said when he would come home finally.

## Filipino minister rejects plot charge by Marcos

MANILA (R) — A senior member of the Philippines government Sunday rejected a charge by President Ferdinand Marcos that a proposal to revive the vice-presidency was part of a conspiracy.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Arturo Tolentino, who has proposed that a vice-president be elected in May to provide a successor for Mr. Marcos, said in a statement published Sunday that the idea had overwhelming support.

Mr. Marcos said on Friday he opposed revival of the vice-presidency on the grounds that it would weaken his power. "Undoubtedly there is a plot somewhere we cannot yet unmask," he said.

Revival of the post has been str-

ongly endorsed by Filipino businessmen who see it as a way of reviving international financial confidence, severely jolted when opposition leader Benigno Aquino was assassinated in August.

Mr. Tolentino, who has been recommended as foreign minister by the retiring incumbent Carlos Romulo, said his proposal was influenced by public opinion.

Mr. Tolentino said more than 56 per cent of Filipinos favoured electing a vice-president in May when parliamentary elections are due.

Parliament is scheduled to debate the issue Monday but a decision is expected beforehand at a meeting of assembly members of the ruling New Society Movement Party (KBL).

## U.S. study says nuclear survivors would eat well

WASHINGTON (R) — A major nuclear attack on the United States could kill half the population, but then survivors would have enough food, according to a controversial new study.

The report for the White House by U.S. civil defence experts contradicts recent scientific predictions that the world would be plunged into freezing darkness and plant growth would stop for months after an attack.

Its conclusions were immediately criticised by Congressman Tom Harkin, a senior member of the House of Representatives agriculture committee, who released the report to Reuters.

"I was absolutely appalled at the content of this briefing," he said.

There is no explanation as to how the government expects farmers to get these crops to grow in the "dead dirt" which will be left after attack or who is expected to harvest these crops or how they could be harvested in intense radiation," the Iowa Democrat said.

The study was prepared by the federal emergency management agency, the main coordinator of U.S. civil defence projects which include a proposed programme to relocate city populations to rural areas in the event of a nuclear attack.

The report came about two weeks after more than 100 million Americans watched a stark depiction of the results of nuclear war in the television film "The Day After."

The civil defence experts concluded that "agriculture production in the event of a nuclear attack is expected to be adequate for surviving population needs."

But it also noted that if civil defence relocation were a success there would not be enough food to sustain the survivors.

As many as eight out of 10 could survive if cities were abandoned before the attack, it said.

Those living in rural areas would fare relatively well — almost 80 per cent would still be alive two months after the attack.

## Australian government suffers electoral setback

DARWIN (R) — Australia's Labour government was unseated Sunday by a vote against its plans to block uranium mining in the remote Northern Territory and to give Ayers Rock, the world's largest monolith, back to the aborigines.

Prime Minister Bob Hawke said in a statement issued in Canberra that he would consult the territory's new government but his federal government would not be deterred "from implementing policies which have the support of the majority of Australians."

The Liberal Country Party, campaigning against the plans, gained a landslide election win in the territory Saturday, taking 19 seats in an expanded legislative assembly to Labour's five. One seat was still in doubt.

Labour held seven seats to the Liberals' 11 in the old assembly. The poll saw a 12 per cent swing to the Liberals.

The territory and Australia's six states are self-governing but Labour is in federal power, with responsibility for overall political, foreign and defence policies.

It was able to decide last month to give back the rock and stop the two uranium projects because it has the title to the land on which they stand.

Chief Minister Paul Everingham, jubilant over the result, said he would seek an early meeting with Mr. Hawke. "We don't propose to back down from our stance over the interests here that have been trampled on in the past few months," he said.

## Australian security men hold up Melbourne hotel

MELBOURNE (R) — When five masked men armed with sub-machine guns took over Melbourne's luxury Sheraton Hotel last week, the manager assumed they were staging a robbery and ordered staff to summon the police.

But bystanders agreed that as armed robberies go, this one seemed a little off key.

For instance, they said, as four of the men grappled with hotel staff, the fifth stroled up to reception and politely paid the bill for two rooms they had occupied.

Neither did the gang make any demands. Instead they hacked down the door to a 10th floor room and were seen lugging around teargas, eavesdropping equipment, bugging devices and police transmitters.

Before leaving they herded the staff into the kitchens. But later when captured in a getaway car they were all released by police

without being charged.

Hotel manager Nick Rice demanded an explanation. Later he got it — the "gang" were members of Australia's security intelligence service taking part in a mock exercise, said defence department spokesman Col. Ross Smith.

Foreign Minister Bill Hayden, who has overall responsibility for security services, told the federal parliament the exercise had been carried out without his authority and described it as "particularly nasty and intolerable."

He said the group of trainees had been supposed to rescue a "hostage."

"Instead, the trainees chose a violent attack on the room of the hotel in which the supposed hostage was held under guard. The trainees subsequently became involved in grappling with the hotel management and guests," he added.

## Pope's visit to S. Korea could make life better for dissidents

SEOUL (R) — Pope John Paul II's planned visit to South Korea next year is being welcomed by Koreans from all walks of life, including both government officials and political dissidents.

The South Korean Catholic primate, Stephen Cardinal Kim Sou-Hwan, a mild critic of the government, called it "the greatest joy in the 200-year history of Korean Catholicism," which has been marred by periods of persecution.

A foreign ministry official said the papal visit from May 3 to 7 next year was "an honour for this nation and carries much political significance."

"It will certainly boost the image of the Korean government in the international community," he added.

The tour, the first by a Pope to Korea and only the third to an Asian country, will also delight dissidents fighting for human rights.

"His holiness's visit will be largely for pastoral purposes. But it could also give moral support to some church people who are running against the government with

their demands for democracy," a church official said.

Relations between government and church have often been soured over human rights, a legacy of the days when Christians were imprisoned by President Park Chung-Hee who was assassinated in 1979.

However, government officials said the Pope's visit would help nurture harmony and cooperation between the two sides.

Many people expect that before the Pope arrives the government will show leniency to some of the 400 dissidents that human rights sources say are being held in jail.

No exact figures are available, but the sources say the number would be much higher if those detained without charge were included.

South Korea, which recognises no state religion, has almost 12 million Buddhists, 2 million Catholics, more than seven million Protestants, more than five million Confucians and about two million people adhering to various indigenous faiths.

"The visit will be welcome to virtually all of the 40 million peo-

## France to toughen anti-racist laws

PARIS (R) — France is to toughen anti-racist laws after what began as a march for equality by 30 people grew Saturday in a rally attracting 60,000 in Paris on the final section of a 1,200 kilometre trek, officials said.

Junior Minister for Social Affairs Georgina Dufoux said she would ask parliament for special credits in order to provide financial backing for anti-racist campaigns.

Justice Minister Robert Badinter will draft a new law defining racism violence as a crime and enabling anti-racist organisations to initiate court proceedings in such cases, officials added.

Sunday's rally was the climax of an anti-racist march which began two months ago in Marseilles with little publicity and 30 demonstrators, half of them French and half of them children of North African immigrants.

In seven weeks, three government ministers joined the march, some 700 writers and academics expressed support and Muslim, Christian and Jewish leaders jointly backed the demonstration.

Marchers on the final leg from Place de la Bastille, in eastern Paris, to Montparnasse, in the south of the capital, included External Relations Minister Claude

Cheyssou, Cultural Affairs Minister Jack Lang and Junior Environment Minister Hugues Bouchardeau.

Eight of those who made the whole journey were later received by President Francois Mitterrand at the Elysee Palace.

Most political parties on the left and the main unions called on their supporters to take part in the final march while opposition leaders said they would stay away.

The idea for the march came to Toumi jaidja, a young Algerian, as he was recovering in hospital after being shot when he intervened in a fight at a housing estate outside Lyons.

## S. Korea allegedly sinks northern spy boat, captures 2 infiltrators

SEOUL (R) — The defence ministry said Sunday South Korean forces captured two armed North Korean infiltrators and sank a northern spy boat Saturday night in the most serious incident involving the two Koreas since the October Rangoon bomb blast.

Gen. Lee Ki-Baek, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, said in a statement two North Korean commandos in civilian clothes were spotted while approaching the shore of the city at 10:40 p.m. (13:40 GMT) Saturday and were captured after a brief clash.

The two agents, identified as Li Sang-Kyu, 23, and Chun, 27, threw hand grenades and were injured, military officials said.

They were admitted to a military hospital in the city where officials said their injuries were minor.

War planes and navy patrol

boats, called in to conduct a search, spotted a northern spy boat about nine kilometres south of the city and sank it about 20 minutes after the capture of the two commandos, Gen. Lee said.

There were no casualties on the southern side, he added. Gen. Lee gave no indication of the size of the spy boat or the number of people aboard.

But military officials said troops seized more than 130 items of equipment, including Czech-made sub-machineguns, a pistol, ammunition, military uniforms, codebooks, radio receivers, transmitters and other communications gear.

The general, who is also head of the counter-espionage headquarters, said the infiltration attempt was believed to be aimed at fomenting social unrest in the

South by destroying military and other major state installations.

He said the action clearly demonstrated the North's intention to take the South by force and impose communist rule.

Following October's bomb blast that killed 17 South Koreans, including four cabinet ministers accompanying President Chun Doo Hwan on a visit to Burma, Seoul charged it was part of a plan intended to lead to a North Korean invasion of the South.

Seoul officials said the bomb was intended to kill Mr. Chun. If it had succeeded they said they believed North Korea would have staged anti-government incidents in the South and used them as a pretext to invade.

Burma has also said North Korea was responsible for the bomb blast.

## COLUMN

## 2 CBS cameramen detained at Comiso

COMISO, Sicily (R) — Two Italian journalists working for the American CBS television network were arrested outside an air force base destined to take new medium-range nuclear missiles, police said. The two Rome-based cameramen, Adalberto Pasquini and Vito Mocino, were questioned by police before being charged with trying to obtain news about state secrets.

## Moscow garage turns patriotic

MOSCOW (R) — Moscow's newest, best-equipped garage is refusing to handle Soviet-built cars modified to run on low-grade black-market petrol, TASS news agency said. Many private car owners adjust their engines to take low-octane fuel which they buy from tory drivers who order more petrol coupons from the state than they require and are often willing to siphon off the extra litres for cash. TASS said the new Kuntsevskiy garage, equipped with Western diagnostic computers, would not deal with car owners "who try privately to economise out of the state's pocket". TASS said by refusing to service modified cars, the garage hoped to save the state many litres of pilfered fuel.

## 1 dead, 7 hurt in car-camel crash

DUBAI (R) — One person died and seven members of his family were injured when their car hit a camel on a main road near here Saturday night, police said. The camel was also killed, they added.

## Marijuana crop found in greenhouses

ADELAIDE (R) — Thousands of marijuana plants worth nearly three million U.S. dollars on the black market were found growing under cucumbers in south Australian greenhouses, police said. The marijuana, nearly ready for cropping, was found hidden in a market garden district just north of Adelaide. Two men have been charged with growing illegal plants. On Monday, about 1,000 marijuana plants were found growing in irrigated bush country on the island of Tasmania, off southern Australia.

## 500 families saved in Alabama

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama (R) — Two people were killed Saturday night when a tornado ripped through a shopping centre in Oxford, about 90 kilometres from Birmingham, a local television station reported. Rescue teams in small boats earlier rescued 500 marooned families in the Birmingham area after more than 12 hours of rain caused widespread flooding. The national weather service reported that 13.4 cm of rain fell on Birmingham overnight.

## U.S. magazine told to change names

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut (R) — A superior court judge ordered the Yale Literary Magazine, the oldest such publication in the country, to change its name. Judge Howard Zoraski agreed with Yale University that the quarterly magazine, first published in 1836, did not represent Yale and must drop the name. Lawyers acting for the magazine said they would appeal.

## Indian expedition off to Antarctica

NEW DELHI (R) — An Indian expedition has set off to establish a permanent base in Antarctica, the Press Trust of India news agency said. It said the 80-member team, the third from India to the frozen continent, left Goa's Mormugao harbour on a month-long journey to the Antarctic. An Indian official said the team would set up a permanent research station at a point on latitude 72 degrees south and longitude 10 degrees east. They would also establish a communications link between their base camp and Indian capital New Delhi, the agency said.

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN  
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## SCINTILLATING SOBEL

DEAR READERS: We have had many requests over the years for these hands that we consider to be our favorites. That makes quite a list. For a while, therefore, we are devoting the Sunday column to a series of famous hands. At the end of the series, we will go back to our weekly question and answer column.

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH  
♠ AK82  
♥ AK42  
♦ Q6  
♣ 552

WEST EAST  
♠ 65 ♠ 10943  
♥ J86 ♥ 103  
♦ AKJ873 ♦ 92  
♣ A9 ♣ KJ1083

SOUTH  
♠ QJ7  
♥ Q975  
♦ 1054  
♣ Q74

The bidding:  
West North East South  
1 ♠ 1 ♠ 1 ♠  
Pass 2 ♠ Pass Pass  
Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠.

If we were asked to vote for the best bridge player we have encountered, at least one of us would vote for the late Helen Sobel Smith. By today's standards her bidding might have left something to be desired (indeed, there were some even then who criticized it), but no one played or defended a hand better. Here's an example from the 1951 Spingold

Team Championship, won by the Goren team.

After Helen opened one diamond and North made a takeout double, North-South arrived at a contract of two hearts. The same contract was reached by the Goren team in the other room, and eight tricks were duly made.

Helen made the normal lead of the king of diamonds and, after receiving an encouraging signal from East, continued with the ace and jack. Declarer did not want to waste one of dummy's trump honors by ruffing high, and there seemed to be no point to ruffing low, so he discarded a club from dummy.

Goren signalled with the eight of clubs. Helen needed no more to come up with the winning defense.

At trick four she shifted to a low club. Goren won the king and returned a club to his partner's ace. Now Helen reverted to a fourth diamond, and declarer had no counter. He stuffed a spade from dummy. East cooperated with his partner's fine defense by ruffing with the ten!

The uppercut succeeded. Declarer had to overruff with the queen and, since West held the J-8-6 of trumps over declarer's 9-7-5, there was no way to prevent West from scoring a trump for the setting trick.

Now we know that bridge is a game full of male chauvinists. But ask any expert who encountered Helen over the green baize, and we are prepared to bet that they will tell you that there was no one better!